

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. William Winter has prepared a volume of essays on Henry Irving and his acting, and it will soon be published by Mr. George J. Coombes. It is to be printed in a delicately artistic fashion by Mr. DeVinne and is intended to be a beautiful specimen of the bookman's art.

The catalogue of Mr. Herman's library sale was circulated in this city, and although it contained many rarities, including the extra illustrated Life of Edmund Kean, which was bought by Henry Irving's order for about five hundred dollars, its best specimens in no way equaled those in many private collections in this country. The collection of Robert Hoe, esq., for instance, is one which contains extra illustrated works said to be worth over \$30,000. Mr. Augustus Teedeburg, of Brooklyn, possesses a copy of "Doran's History of the New-York Stage," extended from two to eight volumes, containing twelve or fifteen hundred (if not more) portraits of actors and actresses, autographic letters and old playbills; all handsomely laid in uniform size and carefully "read in" at the proper places in the text. Mr. J. N. Ireland, of Bridgeport, Conn., author of the "Life of Mrs. Duff," and Mr. Curtis Guild, of Boston, are also owners of extremely rich and beautiful extended or extra illustrated dramatic books superior to those mentioned in the Herman catalogue. Americans are now the best purchasers of rare and costly books in Europe and two of our leading booksellers sent over heavy loads for choice lots in the above mentioned London sales.

A relative of Mr. W. D. Howells is the widow of George H. M. Johnson, the eminent Iroquois chief whose career is so neatly sketched in "The Magazine of American History." This lady was, before her marriage to "Onawonayshon," Miss Emily Susanus Howells.

Miss Blanche Howard is said to have lately dramatized her striking novel "Gwen." She is now engaged in writing another novel.

Mr. Andrew Lang's "Rhymes a la Mode" are just out in London. The volume has this neat little envelope titled "The Spinet":

My heart's an old spinet with strings
To love so chiefly tuned; but some
That fate has practised hard on dumb,
They answer not whenever strung.
The growth of half-gotten things
Will touch the keys in their numb,
The little mocking spirits come to sing,
And the thought of wirey fings.

"Mr. Henry James's new story, "The Bostonians," is thus referred to by "The Boston Herald": "It is not a gross violation of good taste to burlesque, in the character of Miss Birdseye, one of the most esteemed philanthropists, a lady who will live in the ethical history of Boston by reason of her admirable works and eminent personal connections." Mr. James so describes this lady in her peculiarities of voice, figure and manner, and even in the diminutive suggesting resemblance of the names, that no persons who know the original would fail to recognize the caricature. If this fashion of ridiculing living personalities in fiction goes on, reputable people will be as likely to avoid contact with an author as they are now erroneously supposed to shun "interviewer."

Prince Nicholas of Montenegro has added his name to the list of titled authors. He has written a tragedy,

"The Empress of the Balkans;" and it was not long ago successfully performed at Podgorica. Mr. G. W. Harris, of Cornell University, writes to "The Library Journal" that there is a serious flaw in the "Edition Definitive" of Victor Hugo's works. "About a year ago," he says, "the set was ordered for this library, and we received all the volumes then published, and among them were: 'Poe's Vol. VIII; Les Chansons des Rues et des Bois,' and 'Poe's Vol. IX, L'Amance Terrible.' A few weeks ago we received another instalment, containing: 'Poe's Vol. VII, La Legende des Siecles, Vol. I,' and 'Poe's Vol. X, La Legende des Siecles, Vol. IV.' Then it became evident that Poe's Vol. VIII and IX, should contain the second and third volumes of La Legende des Siecles, but in our set they do not, as you see, and I am informed that there is a similar defect in the Astor Library copy. On looking up the publisher's list immediately after we have received them, do not correspond. That the blunder regarding Volumes VIII and IX is not confined to the title-page is evident from the contents, and from the fact that each signature of these volumes bears 'Poe's VIII' or 'Poe's IX,' respectively throughout. The result seems to be that we shall have two volumes VIII and IX, of the Poe's edition entirely unlike and shall have no Volume XI or XII. One would suppose that in so handsome and costly an edition and one which is intended to be the standard edition of the works of a writer like Victor Hugo, a blunder of this sort would have been impossible."

Count von Matlock's book, "Poland," is being translated into English and will soon appear in London.

Beginning in "La Revue Politique et Litteraire," a series of articles on "Professeurs du College de France," Mr. J. Lemaitre describes the author of the "Life of Jesus" as he appears in his lecture-room. "M. Renan enters; is applauded, and thinks he has students with a little nod and the smile of an easy-going man. He is bulky, short, fat, rosy, with large features, long gray hair, a large nose, small eyes, a well-shaped mouth; otherwise he is quite round, moves his whole body at once; his large head rests on his shoulders. He has the air of being well-pleased with life, and gayly he exposes the formation of the Pentateuch and the book of Joshua, a collection which ought to be called the 'Hexateuch.' His explanation is clear, simple, animated. His voice is somewhat hoarse, a little oily, his diction firm and very hurried, his gestures familiar and almost excessive. As to form, there is not the least studied refinement or elegance: nothing of the grace and superiority of his writings. He talks to be understood, that all. His expressions are entirely homely. . . . He should be seen when unexpectedly he comes upon a good joke. His powerful head, thrown back and inclined toward one shoulder, becomes illuminated and brilliant; his eyes glitter, his finely-shaped mouth, half-opened, showing the tiny teeth, contrasts enormously with his opulent, episcopal cheeks, large and coarse as they are. . . . M. Renan is gay, very gay; and what is more, his gaiety is rather comical." M. Lemaitre sums up his account of the sage, infidel, apostle, semi-Christ, or what-not, with the reflection that "the world would be more gloomy if there were no M. Renan."

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

EDWIN ARNOLD'S BIRTHDAY BOOK. Edited by Katherine Lilian and Constance Arnold. 12mo, pp. 44. Blotter: D. Lovell & Co.

THE YOUNG FRIENDS AND THEIR CHURCHES. By Washington Gladden. 12mo, pp. 71. (Boston: Congregational Sunday-School Society.)

TWO WOMEN. By Mrs. S. A. F. Herbert. 12mo, pp. 244. (Boston: Congregational Sunday-School Society.)

DUXBURY DUNNS. By Caroline E. Le Bow. 12mo, pp. 160. (Boston: Congregational Sunday-School Society.)

MR. STANFORD'S JOURNEY. By Mrs. Julia McNair Wright. 16mo, pp. 180. (Boston: Congregational Sunday-School Society.)

POEMS. By Henry G. Cost. 12mo, pp. 80. Paper.

THE LAW OF SUCCESS. By William S. Spear. 12mo, pp. 160. (New York: T. Nelson & Sons.)

THE GRAY MASQUE, AND OTHER POEMS. By Mary Barber Dodge. 16mo, pp. 255. (Boston: D. Lathrop.)

RED-LETTER STORIES. Swiss Tales. By Lucy Wheelock. 16mo, pp. 94. (Boston: D. Lathrop.)

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT. By Dr. D. A. Sargent. 16mo, pp. 125. (Boston: D. Lathrop.)

THE HEROES. By Charles Kingsley. 16mo, pp. 150. (London: C. Smith.)

LETTERS ON SPIRITUAL SUBJECTS. By William H. Holcombe, M. D. 12mo, pp. 400. (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.)

ENGLISH HISTORY IN RHYME. By Mary Russell Gardner. 12mo, pp. 38. (New Haven, Conn.: Stanfield Printing Company.)

MEMOIRS OF THE REV. DAVID BRAINERD. Edited by J. M. Shewell. 12mo, pp. 354. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

THE BUNTING BALL. A Greeko-American Play. 12mo, pp. 154. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

WEBSTER'S CONDENSED DICTIONARY. 12mo, pp. 798. (Boston: Blakeman, Taylor & Co.)

METHODS OF TEACHING HISTORY. By A. D. White and Others. 12mo, pp. 385. (Boston: Glue, New York.)

EXTRACTS OF PHILOSOPHY. By Josiah Boyce. 12mo, pp. 454. (Broughton, Miller & Co.)

THE CRITIC. Vol. II. (New Series) July to December, 1854. (The Critic Company.)

NEW PUBLICATIONS.
SIXTH THOUSANDTH IN PRESS.
"THE BUNTING BALL."
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EDWARD EVERETT HALE says it was written by ROBERT GRANT, and adds—"It is very bright and clever."

BRANDER MATTHEWS says it was written by ROBERT GRANT, and adds—"Neat in its rhyming, pungent in its satire."

EDGAR FAWCETT says it might be ROBERT GRANT, and adds—"It gave me more than one hearty laugh."

PHILA. PRESS says it is ROBERT GRANT, it marks a marvelous advance on "little Tin Gol."

30 PERSONS OUT OF 200 say it was written by ROBERT GRANT. (See list below.)

A PUZZLE TO THE CRITICS.

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at the author of the Greeko-American play, THE BUNTING BALL, will indicate how difficult it is to determine the author of the play which the critics call the "Internal Evidence." Among the guessers are many of the most prominent critics and authors of the day.

We give below the names of the persons mentioned as the author by the first two hundred guesses which have come to hand. The number of times each name has been mentioned is indicated by the figure following each name:

Robert Grant..... 30 James Russell Lowell..... 3
H. C. Tanner..... 19 George A. Baker..... 3
W. A. Croft..... 14 Edward Everett Hale..... 2
Edgar Fawcett..... 14 E. W. Nichols..... 2
H. Guy Carlton..... 13 C. W. Lounsbury..... 2
William Allen Butler..... 10 H. S. Chapman..... 2
W. G. Gilbert..... 4 Frank Salter..... 2
Bert Hoxie..... 4 Brander Matthews..... 2
E. G. Stetson..... 4 R. K. Munkittrick..... 2
T. DeWitt Talmage..... 4 J. C. Goldsmith..... 2
Orpheus C. Kerr..... 3 G. A. Townsend..... 2
A. W. Tourey..... 3 Theodore Tilton..... 2
W. D. Howells..... 3 George W. Curtis..... 3

The following have been named once each: S. S. Cox, R. H. Stoddard, Oscar Wilde, John G. Ware, G. P. Lathrop, Joachim Miller, George Jones of N. Y. Times, Jno. G. Whittier, Rosetta Johnson, Edwin Arnold, Jib Billings, Richard Grant White, Mrs. Margaret, May Morris, Dodge, Mrs. Anna Maria Weston, G. W. Curtis, J. T. Trowbridge, F. B. Heron, John Winslow, G. P. Upton, W. H. Bishop, Charles Norton, Marquis de Louville, Ed. W. Kingdon, Geo. Davis, H. Van-Stanwood, C. F. Langton, J. V. Prichard, Thos. Wharton, A. E. Lanister, H. A. Beers, E. P. Thompson, W. R. Sperry, Prof. Wilkins, Ed. S. Martin, W. M. Keel.

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The result seems to be that we shall have two volumes VIII and IX, of the Poe's edition entirely unlike and shall have no Volume XI or XII. One would suppose that in so handsome and costly an edition and one which is intended to be the standard edition of the works of a writer like Victor Hugo, a blunder of this sort would have been impossible."

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